

ACE Inhibitors

Used for ranking: lowest dose listed as the "usual daily dose" for HTN
Variation in net cost: >200%

Drug name PAL

Captopril 25mg Tab (2)	1*
Enalapril Maleate 2.5mg Tab (2)	1*
Lisinopril 5mg Tab	1*
Benazepril HCL 20mg Tab	1*
Accupril 20mg Tab (quinapril HCl)	1
Monopril 20mg Tab (flosinopril sodium)	1
Aceon 4mg Tab (perindopril erbumine)	1
Altace 2.5mg Cap (ramipril)	2
Mavik 2mg Tab (trandolapril)	2
Univasc 7.5mg Tab (moexipril HCl)	3
Moexipril HCl 7.5mg Tab	3
Prinivil 5mg Tab (lisinopril)	3
Zestril 5mg Tab (lisinopril)	3
Lotensin 20mg Tab (benazepril HCl)	3
Fosinopril Sodium 20mg Tab	3
Capoten 25mg Tab (captopril) (2)	3
Vasotec 2.5mg Tab (enalapril maleate) (2)	3

Cholesterol Lowering Agents

Used for ranking: most frequently prescribed & equipotent daily dose
Variation in net cost: >125%

Drug name PAL

Lescol XL 80mg Tab SA (fluvastatin sodium)	1*
Altotrev 40mg Tab (lovastatin)	1
Lescol 40mg Cap (fluvastatin sodium) (2)	1
Lovastatin 40mg Tab	2
Lipitor 10mg Tab (atorvastatin calcium)	2
Pravachol 40mg Tab (pravastatin sodium)	2
Crestor 5mg Tab (rosuvastatin calcium)	3
Zocor 20mg Tab (simvastatin)	3
Mevacor 40mg Tab (lovastatin)	3

Calcium Channel Blockers

Used for ranking: most common dose with indication for HTN
Variation in net cost: >175%

Drug name PAL

LONG ACTING (1 DAILY) CCB	
Verapamil 180mg Tab SA (verapamil HCl ER)	1*
Verapamil 240mg Cap Pellet (verapamil HCl ER)	1
Diltiazem ER 180mg Cap SA (diltiazem HCl ER)	1
Adalat CC 30mg Tab (nifedipine ER)	1
Plendil 2.5mg Tab SA (felodipine ER)	1
Tiazac 120mg Cap SA (diltiazem HCl ER)	1
Diltiazem HCl 120mg Cap SA	2
Dynacirc 5mg Cap (isradipine)	2
Calan SR 180mg Cap SA (verapamil HCl SR)	2
Nifediac CC 30mg Tab (nifedipine ER)	2
Nifedical XL 30mg Tab (nifedipine ER)	2
Norvasc 5mg Tab (amlodipine)	2
Procardia XL 30mg Tab (nifedipine ER)	2
Covera-HS 180mg Tab SA (verapamil HCl ER)	3
Cardizem CD 180mg Cap SA (diltiazem HCl ER)	3
Dilitiazem HCl 180mg Cap SA	3
Verelan PM 200mg Cap Pellet (verapamil HCl ER)	3
Sular 20mg Tab SA (nisoldipine ER)	3
Verelan 240mg Cap Pellet (verapamil HCl SR)	3
Dilacor XR 180mg Cap SA (diltiazem HCl ER)	3

SHORT ACTING CCB

Verapamil 80mg Tab	1*
Nicardipine 20mg Cap	1*
Calan 80mg Tab (verapamil HCl)	3
Cardene 20mg Cap (nicardipine HCl)	3
Cardene SR 30mg Cap (nicardipine HCl SR)	3

\$ Non Sedating Antihistamines

Used for ranking: most frequent daily dose
Variation in net cost: > 150 %

Drug name PAL

Claritin OTC/Alavert 10 mg OTC (loratadine)	1*
Alavert 10mg (Fast Dissolving) (loratadine)	1*
Claritin 5mg/5ml OTC Syrup (10ml) (loratadine)	1
Zyrtec 10mg Tab (cetirizine)	3
Clarinet 5mg Tab (desloratadine)	3
Allegra 180mg Tab (fexofenadine)	3
Claritin 10mg Tab (loratadine)	3

Steroid Inhalers

Used for ranking: (inhalations per day)

Variation in net cost: >75%

Drug name PAL

Ovar 80mcg inhaler (beclomethasone dipropionate)	1
Aerobid Aerosol w/Adaptor (flunisolide)	2
Pulmicort 200mcg Turbuhaler (budesonide)	2
Azmacort Inhaler (triamcinolone acetonide)	2
Flovent 44mcg Inhaler (fluticasone propionate)	2
Flovent 100mcg Rotadisk (fluticasone propionate)	3

Beta Agonist Inhalers

Used for ranking: (inhalations per day)

Variation in net cost: 300%

Drug name PAL

SHORT ACTING

Albuterol 90mcg Inhaler (8)	1*
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Note: Generic albuterol is the single most cost effective agent

LONG ACTING

Note: Minimal cost difference between long acting agents available by inhaler

For beta agonist inhalers, albuterol is the single most cost-effective agent.

Updated 04/05



Community Care of NC Prescription Advantage List (PAL)

Highlights in This Release

Most Important classes to attain cost savings:

- Proton Pump Inhibitors
- Non Sedating Antihistamines
- SSRI
- Sedative Hypnotics

The Prescription Advantage List (PAL) was developed by the NCPAG and Community Care of NC (Access II/III) in cooperation with the Division of Medical Assistance as a voluntary effort to help control rising pharmacy costs in NC Medicaid. While this list is voluntary, the physician leadership of the NCPAG and Community Care of NC hope that you will use it as a guide to prescribe less expensive medications whenever possible and clinically appropriate.

The PAL list includes some of the most costly classes of medication. By evaluating actual net cost of each medication to NC Medicaid including rebates, the medications in each class are ranked in order from least to most expensive based on the listed unit dosage as determined by the NCPAG.

(The % net cost variation between the least and most expensive medication is listed.)

- 1* > 50% below average net cost
- 1 15-50% below average net cost
- 2 +/- 15% average net cost
- 3 > 15% average net cost

Note: No judgment as to efficacy is implied by this list but rather is intended as an educational tool based on cost alone. "Clinical pearls" based on an evidence-based review of current medical literature are scheduled for release in late 2005.

Narcotics

Used for ranking: equianalgesic dose per day
Variation in net cost: >200% short acting: >50% long acting

Drug name	PAL
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SHORT ACTING (#/DAY)	
MSIR 30mg Tab (morphine sulfate) (6)	1*
Methadone HCl 10mg Tab (8)	1*
Dolophine HCl 10mg Tab (methadone HCl) (8)	1*
Roxicodone 5mg Tab (oxycodone HCl) (18)	1
Oxycodone 5mg Tab (oxycodone HCl) (18)	2
Oxyir 5mg Cap (oxycodone HCl) (18)	3
Dilauidid 8mg Tab (hydromorphone HCl) (6)	3
Hydromorphone HCl 8mg Tab (6)	3
Levorphanol Tartrate 2mg Tab (8)	3
Codeine Sulfate 60mg Tab (18)	3

LONG ACTING (#/DAY)	
Oramorph SR 30mg Tablet (morphine sulfate CR) (6)	1*
Duragesic 50mcg/HR Patch (fentanyl transdermal) (1/3)	1
Morphine Sulfate Tab SA 30mg	1
MS Contin 30mg (morphine sulfate CR)	1
Kadian 30mg Cap SR (morphine sulfate SR) (6)	3
Oxycontin 20mg Tab SA (oxycodone HCl CR) (6)	3
Avinza 90mg Cap (morphine sulfate ER) (2)	3

Sedative Hypnotics	PAL
Used for ranking: most frequent dose for insomnia	
Variation in net cost: >200%	
Drug name	PAL
Flurazepam 30mg Cap	1*
Temazepam 30mg Cap	1*
Triazolam 0.25mg Tab	1*
Estazolam 2mg Tab	1
Halcion 0.25mg Tab (triazolam)	1
Restoril 30mg Cap (temazepam)	1
Prosom 2mg Tab (estazolam)	2
Dalmane 30mg Cap (flurazepam)	3
Ambien 10mg Tab (zolpidem tartrate)	3
Sonata 10mg Cap (zaleplon)	3

Atypical Antipsychotics

Used for ranking: lowest & highest daily dose listed as range for treating schizophrenia
Variation in net cost: >75% low dose: >100% high dose

Drug name	PAL
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Low MAINTENANCE DOSE (#/DAY)	
Risperdal 1mg Tab (risperidone) (2)	1
Clozapine 100mg Tab (3)	1
Zyprexa 5mg Tab (olanzapine) (1)	1
Seroquel 100mg Tablet (quetiapine fumarate) (3)	2
Geodon 20mg Cap (ziprasidone) (2)	2
Abilify 10mg Tab (aripiprazole) (1)	3
Clozaril 100mg Tab (clozapine) (3)	3

HIGH MAINTENANCE DOSE (#/DAY)	
Geodon 80mg Cap (ziprasidone) (2)	1
Seroquel 200mg Tab (quetiapine fumarate) (2)	1
Abilify 15mg Tab (aripiprazole) (1)	1
Clozapine 100mg Tab (6)	1
Risperdal 4mg Tab (risperidone) (2)	2
Zyprexa 15mg Tab (olanzapine) (1)	2
Clozaril 100mg Tab (clozapine) (6)	3

SSRI	
Used for ranking: lowest dose listed in range for treating depression	
Variation in net cost: >200%	

Drug name	PAL
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Fluoxetine HCL 20mg Cap	1*
Paroxetine HCL 20mg Tab	1
Lexapro 10mg Tab (escitalopram oxalate)	2
Celexa 20mg Tab (citalopram HBr)	2
Zoloft 50mg Tab (sertraline HCl)	2
Paxil 20mg Tab (paroxetine HCl)	2
Prozac 20mg pulvule (fluoxetine HCl)	2
Paxil CR 25mg Tab (paroxetine HCl CR)	2
Prozac weekly 90mg Cap (fluoxetine HCl DR)	2
Cymbalta 20mg Cap (duloxetine HCl)	3

Please see the "Other Antidepressants" section for a new class not included in prior PAL releases.

ADD/ADHD

Used for ranking: lowest daily dose for ADD/ADHD
Variation in net cost: >75% short acting: >75% intermediate acting: >25% long acting

Drug name	PAL
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SHORT ACTING	
Methylin/methylphenidate HCl 5mg Tab	1
Dexedrine 5mg Tab (dextroamphetamine sulfate)	1
Dextroamphetamine Sulfate 5mg Tab	2
Ritalin 5mg Tab (methylphenidate HCl)	2
Focalin 2.5mg Tab (dexmethylphenidate HCl)	3

INTERMEDIATE ACTING	
Dexedrine Spansule 5mg (dextroamphetamine sulfate SR)	1
Adderall 5mg Tab (amphetamine salts)	1
Methylin ER 20mg Tab SA (methylphenidate HCl ER)	2
D-Amphetamine 5mg Cap SA (dextroamphetamine SR)	2
Ritalin-SR 20mg Tab SA (methylphenidate HCl SR)	3
Amphetamine Salts 5mg Tab	3

LONG ACTING	
Metadate CD 20mg Cap (methylphenidate HCl ER)	1
Ritalin LA 20mg Cap (methylphenidate HCl ER)	2
Ritalin LA 30mg Cap (methylphenidate HCl ER)	2
Concerta 18mg Tab SA (methylphenidate HCl ER)	2
Adderall XR 10mg Cap (amphetamine salts ER)	3

OTHER	
Strattera 40mg Cap (atomoxetine HCl)	3

Other Antidepressants

Variation in net cost: >200%

Drug name	PAL
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Fluvoxamine Maleate 50mg Tab	1*
Luvox 50mg Tab (fluvoxamine maleate)	1
Effexor 37.5mg Tab (venlafaxine HCl)	1
Effexor XR 75mg Cap SA (venlafaxine HCl ER)	1
Sarafem 20mg Pulvule (fluoxetine HCl)	2
Symbax 6-25mg Cap (olanzapine and fluoxetine HCl)	3

Cox 2 Inhibitors

For Cox 2 inhibitors, use of generic NSAIDs are advised unless there is history of GI problems.

NSAIDs

Used for ranking: highest daily dose for osteoarthritis
Variation in net cost: >200%

Drug name
Mobic 15mg Tab

PAL

All NSAIDs have generics available which are Tier 1 except for Mobic 15mg tablet. The use of generic NSAIDs is advised unless there is history of GI problems. See COX2 inhibitors.

Proton Pump Inhibitors

Used for ranking: maintenance erosive esophagitis daily dose
Variation in net cost: >100%

Drug name
Prilosec 20mg OTC (omeprazole Mg)

PAL

Protonix 40mg Tab EC (pantoprazole)	1
Prevacid 30mg Cap DR (lansoprazole)	2

Omeprazole 20mg Cap DR	2
Aciphex 20mg Tab EC (rabeprazole)	3

Prilosec 20mg Cap DR (omeprazole)	3
Nexium 40mg Cap (esomeprazole)	3

H2 Antagonists

Used for ranking: maintenance DU-daily dose
Variation in net cost: >175%

All H2 antagonists have generics available which are Tier 1. The use of any generic is the most cost effective in this class.